

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview held on May 14, 2010, in which the Examiner suggested helpful amendatory language for the claims. During the interview it was pointed out that applicant's invention avoids the need for a conventional Doppler shift processor to produce a spectral Doppler display. Instead, a user delineates a region of interest (ROI) in an ultrasound image where motion is present. The motion information of the spatially discrete pixels of the ROI is then arranged in a histogram of motion values, and the histogram is displayed as one temporally discrete (vertical) line of a spectral display. While this technique for displaying the spectral distribution of motion may have a different precision than a conventional spectral Doppler display which only samples the Doppler shift from a single spatial point (sample volume) in an image, it nevertheless gives the clinician a quick estimate of flow velocity variation in a ROI of a blood vessel.

The claims have been amended by reciting the use of "colorflow" image data in each claim. The claims now recite the use of a histogram or determining the distribution of a motion characteristic as a function of time for each image. The term "display elements" has been made more specific by amending the claims to refer to display lines which are used for the spectral display. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art in the manner contemplated by the Examiner's helpful suggestions on page 9 of the Office Action.

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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